

JANUARY 2023

LOUISIANA ELK'S NEWSLETTER



A News Publication of the
LOUISIANA ELK'S ASSOCIATION, INC.

A Five Star Publication

Hon. Millard Pickering PGER, sponsor

*Published on behalf of Louisiana Elks, in support of Louisiana Elks and for
Elks*

Published by:
Editor:
Reporters:

Louisiana Elks Association
Buddy Hartle
Exalted Rulers and LEA Chairman



TABLE OF CONTENTS

2021/2022 LOUISIANA ELKS ASSOCIATION OFFICERS	1.
COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND LODGE DIRECTORY	2.
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE	3.
PRESIDENT ELECT MESSAGE	3.
SPECIAL DEPUTY MESSAGE	3-4.
LEA SECRETARY MESSAGE	4-5.
GRAND LODGE CORNER	5-7.
ELKS NATIONAL VETERANS SERVICE COMMISSION	7-8.
ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION	9.
STATE ASSOCIATION NEWS	9-10.
COMMITTEE REPORTS	10-13
LODGE NEWS	13
GOOD OLD DAYS	13.
MEMORIALS	13.
CONVENTION LETTER	14.
CONVENTION REGISTRATION	15.

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

This bulletin will only be as good as the information submitted by you, a member of the Louisiana Elks Association. Articles for the April bulletin are due by March 10, 2023.

Please send them to:

mrb.hartle3574@hotmail.com or elksoflouisiana@hotmail.com

OFFICERS 2022-2023:

PRESIDENT:

Rene Pelanne (Laurie)
PDD, New Orleans #30

VICE-PRESIDENT

Wayne Landry (Bella)
PDD, Slidell #2321

TREASURER

Andy Austin (Rebecca)
Shreveport #122

TILER

E.J. Ward (Gwen)
New Orleans #30

PRESIDENT-ELECT

Don Baye (Karen)
PDD, New Orleans #30

SECRETARY

Buddy Hartle (Judy)
PDD, New Orleans #30

PARLIAMENTARIAN

Kenneth Lafleur (Pat)
PSP, Opelousas #1048

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS

Sharrieff Armstead (Connie)
New Orleans #30

CHAPLAIN

Lyman Ryan
New Orleans #30

LOUISIANA ELKS ASSOCIATION TRUSTEES:

1-YEAR:

Henry Daigle (Toni)
PSP, Plaquemine #1398

3-YEAR:

Armand Buuck (Debbie)
PSP, New Orleans #30

2-YEAR

Beulah Rodrigue
PSP, Houma #1193

4-YEAR

Jim Cade (Lisa)
PSP, Shreveport #122

5-YEAR:

Charlesray Neight (Cathy)
PSP, Slidell #2321



COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

Accident Prevention Safety, Insurance & Risk Management

William Boudreaux, PSP
New Orleans #30

Advisory Chairman

Bernie Mathais, PSP
Shreveport #122

Adopt-A-School

Randy Bergeron, PSP
Shreveport #122

Americanism

James Hester, PSP
New Orleans #30

Business Practices

Chris Hymel
New Orleans #30

CLMS

Buddy Hartle, PDD
New Orleans #30

Disaster Relief

Puddy Gondrella, PER
N.O. Westbank #2496

Drug Awareness

Armand Buuck, PSP
New Orleans #30

Elks National Foundation

Brian Baye, PER
New Orleans #30

Elks National Veterans Service

Don Baye, PDD
New Orleans #30

Elks & Scouting

Sonya Belgard
N.O. Westbank #2496

Food Bank

Richard Conran, SDGER
Plaquemine #1398

Government Relations

Puddy Gondrella, PER
N.O. Westbank #2496

Hoop Shoot

Greg Hanrahan
Slidell #2321

Lodge Activities

Betsy Ibos, PER
New Orleans #30

Membership

Wayne Landry, PDD
Slidell #2321

Newsletter

Buddy Hartle, PDD
New Orleans #30

New Lodge Development

Armand Buuck, PSP
New Orleans #30

Public Relations

Tom Cressionne
New Orleans #30

Resolutions

Armand Buuck, PSP
New Orleans #30

Ritualistic

Randy Bergeron, PSP
Slidell #2321

Scholarship

Charlesray Neight, PSP
Slidell #2321

State Convention

Buddy Hartle, PDD
New Orleans #30

Elks Training

Richard Conran, SDGER
Plaquemine #1398

Webmaster

Richard Conran, SDGER
Plaquemine #1398

Youth Activities

Brian Baye, PER
New Orleans #30

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STATE PRESIDENTS MESSAGE:



Seasons Greeting All,

I hope to find everyone doing well. Time is flying by and as of now everything is going smoothly.

As mentioned in my last message, midseason conference will be held January 21, 2023, at the Opelousas lodge. It will be a one-day meeting. Lunch will be served between the LEA trustees/ advisory meeting and the general conference meeting. The lunch will be Seafood at the cost of \$15 per plate.

Required to attend is the Exalted Ruler, Leading Knight, Secretary, and the Chairman of the Board, but is open to anyone who would like to attend. I would like to get a headcount from each Lodge to know how many will attend the meeting and who will be purchasing the meal. All state officers and state committee chairpersons should also attend. Please email me at rpelanne@cox.net with the count.

I'm asking all lodges to look at your membership and work on reducing delinquent members and also recruiting some new younger members to keep the lodges in Louisiana moving forward. Looking forward to seeing everyone soon until then, be safe and careful.

In closing Laurie and I would like to wish all our Elk brothers and sisters a very Merry Christmas and the most prosperous New Year!

Fraternally yours,

Rene J Pelanne Jr
LEA State President

PRESIDENT-ELECT MESSAGE:

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of you a happy, healthy, and safe New Year for 2023. I hope everyone had a great holiday season.

Now that the holiday season has come and gone, it's time for us to recommit to our work as ELKS. A great way to kick this off is with our Mid-Season Conference on January 21st in Opelousas.

We will be meeting at Opelousas Lodge #1048. I'm looking forward to seeing everyone again. If you have any new ideas on ways for us to improve our work in Elkdom, please don't hesitate to bring them up at the conference, it's time that we start implementing new and improved methods to grow Elkdom in our association.

Sincerely and Fraternaly

Don L. Baye
President Elect

SPECIAL DEPUTY MESSAGE:

Members,

Sue and I hope that all of you and your families had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

We are now entering into the final three months of our 2022/2023 Elks year, and there is still plenty of work we must do before March 31, 2023.

In January, all members of the Board of Directors should meet with all Elks who are being considered to be nominated as new officers and leaders of the lodge for the year of 2023/2024. (Continued Page 4.)

SPECIAL DEPUTY MESSAGE

continued:

When meeting with them, please make sure that they are not only dedicated Elks but are willing to spend the extra time that will be expected of them to help the lodge accomplish all of the goals that will be set by the newly elected ER for the year of 2023/24, to assure that the Lodge will have a successful year.

All lodges must hold nomination of officers at its first regular meeting in February and election of them at the second regular meeting of the month. Lodges must follow the procedures that are outlined in GL Annotated Statutes Section 3.080 Nominations and 3.090 Elections.

February 16th is the 155th birthday of our order and I urge all lodges to hold a birthday celebration to commemorate it.

March 18, 2023, there will be DD Clinic held at Opelousas Elks Lodge #1048 starting at 10:00 AM. The 2023-2024, ER, Leading Knight, Lodge Secretary, Lodge Treasurer and BOD/Trustees Chairperson must attend it. If you are unable to attend, you must notify Jeff Wheat, DDGER, in writing the reason you cannot attend prior to the day of the Clinic. Also, all Elks who wants to attend this clinic are welcome.

There is still time for the Lapsation Committee to contact all members who are still in arrears on their dues and try to convince them to pay them so they can retain their membership in the greatest fraternal origination on the earth the B. P. O. Elks.

The Auditing and Accounting Committee shall, in July, October and January review the required record-keeping of the financial affairs of the Lodge, Club and compliance with the approved budget, and report to the Lodge at the last regular meeting of the Lodge during these months. See section 13040 (H) of the 2021 Statutes Annotated.

Fraternally,

Richard F. Conran, SDGER/PGTiler

SECRETARY'S MESSAGE:

Greetings,

I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year.

With three months left in this Elk year, we must begin preparing to close out this year. Listed below are some reminders to assist you with this process.

AUDITING AND ACCOUNTING COMMITTEE:

During the month of January, the Auditing and Accounting Committee shall review the required record-keeping of the financial affairs of the Lodge and Club and compliance with the approved budget. The Committee shall report their findings at the last meeting in January. Remember this is your last chance to make adjustments to avoid a deficit budget on March 31. Please refer to Statutes Annotated 13.040 for additional information.

EXALTED RULERS:

Now is the time to review your Lodge's accomplishments and recognize those members who made a significant contribution this past year. The three most cherished tokens of recognition are the Elk of the Year, Officer of the Year and Citizen of the Year awards.

If you had several members who assisted you during this year, you can award the Grand Exalted Ruler Special Citation Award to two members who displayed extraordinary effort during the Lodge year.

These awards are available upon requests from the Grand Lodge Secretary.

Also, as Exalted Ruler, you need to ensure that all your committee chairman have or will submit their reports to the Lodge Secretary, so they may be entered in the charity section in CLMS. (Continued Page 5)

SECRETARY'S MESSAGE

continued:

LODGE SECRETARY:

Have you ordered your 2023/2024 Membership Cards?

If your Lodge is not using the billing renewal system, you need to print out and mail your 2023/2024 dues statement.

In accordance with Statutes Annotated 14.160 the Secretary is responsible for sending a written notice to the delinquent members informing them that if they fail to pay their dues within 30 days of the mailing notice, they will be dropped from the membership of the Lodge. Be sure to include a dues statement in the letter to all delinquent members. All delinquent members must be dropped by March 31, 2023. Need to ensure that your records in CLMS are up to date and accurate. This includes the progression of candidates through his/her membership journey; process any pending transfer dimitts. If you had any deceased member (s) make sure their information has been entered. Also update all information listed under the Grand Lodge Submissions tab in CLMS.

Enter all committee reports that you received in the charity section in CLMS.

EXALTED RULER-ELECT:

One of the most important tasks as Exalted Ruler-Elect is to select Lodge members for the various committees. Be sure to select members who are willing to do the job and not glory seekers. You will need to provide the name of your committee chairman to the Lodge Secretary by the end of February. Thus, the Lodge Secretary can update the Lodge Committees in CLMS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Upon completion of the annual Lodge Elections, you shall meet and elect a Chairman and Secretary for the Board of Directors. If you elect the

Exalted Ruler as Chairman of the Board, you must also elect another board member who will be required to attend all District Deputy Clinics.

Have a Super Elk Day!
Fraternally

Buddy Hartle, LEA State Secretary

GRAND LODGE CORNER

States Can earn awards for their charitable reporting by Walter S. Ice:

At the annual meeting held during the Elks National Convention in Atlanta in July, the Government Relations Committee established two new awards.

The first award will be given to the states where 100% of the Local Lodges participate and complete their charitable reporting in CLMS. A *100% Participation Certificate*, suitable for framing, will be presented to the State Government Relations Chairperson of each winning state during the Government Relations Training Session, which also takes place annually at the National Convention.

The second award is for recognizing the state that achieve a 10% or greater increase in their total charitable dollars reported over the prior year. As with the first award, a certificate suitable for framing will be presented to the State Government Relations Committee Chairperson at the Government Relations Training Seminar.

It is the Government Relations Committee's hope that these awards will encourage all Local Lodges to actively participate in their charitable reporting and to make sure that all Lodge events are accurately reflected in the charitable reporting system.

States and State Government Relations Chairpersons who have won these two awards will be acknowledged in a slide presentation as part of the Government Relations Committee Report at the National Convention, along with the entire report becoming a part of the published Grand Lodge Convention Proceedings. (Continued Page 6)

GRAND LODGE CORNER continued:

So, what can you do? As an Elks Member, first and foremost participate in the charitable works that your Lodge is doing for the betterment of your communities. During the charitable events, help compile the information needed in order to accurately report the charitable dollars associated with the events (i.e., number of participants, the mileage and hours associated with the participants, etc.) And lastly, make sure the completed information is immediately turned in to your Local Lodge Government Relations Chairperson or to your Lodge Secretary.

Let us see which states will step up and meet the challenges. Always remember, when it comes to charitable reporting, **report, report, report!!**

Membership retention spurs growth by Rick Gathen:

Membership retention begins with a welcoming atmosphere in the Lodge. Be sure to reach out to new Members and let them know their presence is appreciated. It's also important to give new Members the chance to be actively involved. Let them know about volunteer opportunities and encourage them to become active in strengthening the Lodge and reaching out to assist the community. People who volunteer to help others will usually also find themselves more deeply attached to the Elks.

The next step in Elks involvement is leadership. If there's a new Elk who has become an active volunteer, encourage them to take the next step and assume a leadership role by joining a Lodge committee or even becoming an Elks officer. One of our new Marketing and Membership initiatives is a Lodge Leadership program, which aims to encourage Elks to become leaders in their Lodge with a focus on the opportunities for growth that Elks leadership offers.

We also have made it easier and more attractive for Members to pay their dues. This has resulted in record-low delinquency. A large part of this success is owed to the new Grand Lodge Billing System, which has made it simpler than ever for

Getting people in the door is a great way to start. The next phase is just as important: convincing these new Members to remain as proud Elks. Membership retention is the key to sustainable membership growth.

GROW ELKDOM

Recent news reports show dangers of drugs and firearms by William J. Bryan:

Drugs and firearms seen to be going hand-in-hand these days, as these news report from October can attest.

In Rutland, Vermont, a 31-year-old man and a 34-year-old man were arrested and charged by criminal complaint. Both men were charged with possessing with the intent to distribute cocaine, cocaine base, and fentanyl, and for carrying and using firearms during and in relation to a drug trafficking crime.

In Rockland, Illinois, a 28-year-old man was sentenced to an aggregate 10 years in prison for possession with intent to distribute cocaine base ("crack") and tetrahydrocannabinol ("THC"), possession of a firearm as a felon, and possession of a firearm in furtherance of drug trafficking crime. The sentence consists of concurrent 60-month terms of imprisonment for the drug trafficking and possession of a firearm as a felon conviction, to be followed by a consecutive 60 months for possession of a firearm in furtherance of drug trafficking crime convictions.

And in New Hampshire, a 36-year-old man was sentenced to 72 months in federal prison for possession with intent to distribute controlled substances, conspiracy to distribute controlled substances, and carrying a firearm in furtherance of drug trafficking.

The list goes on. It is proof that drugs and violence are related. (Continued Page 7).

6.

GRAND LODGE CORNER continued:

Despite this disturbing trend, there is good news as we enter the Christmas season. Evidence suggests that the Elks Drug Awareness Program's efforts are having a positive effect on young people and that drug abuse among our targeted population is trending downwards. This is no time to rest or think that our work is over. Far from it! Our children need us now more than ever.

Have you seen our latest videos, *Awkward Conversations* season 2? These podcasts are setting records for viewership. If you haven't seen any of them, please check them out on YouTube. While you're there, subscribe to our channel.

ELKS NATIONAL VETERANS SERVICE COMMISSION:

Veterans Remembrances is not only for November by Mary Morgan:

We received this thank you letter in the mail at the Elks Headquarters in Chicago, from a veteran who'd received assistance with a security deposit on a small apartment:

"I wish to express my overwhelming gratitude and thanks to you. I can't completely put into words how it feels to have a beautiful, secure place to live and to know that there are people in the world like you and everyone you work with, who are concerned about the rest of us and are taking action to ensure their well-being. I'm wishing you, your colleagues, and your loved ones the best possible quality of life existence has to offer."

Thanks to the Elks, this veteran is no longer scrambling to find a space at a crowded shelter or worrying about where to get clean water. This veteran is now safely home.

During a workday, letters like these can make you stop in your tracks and appreciate the moment. As we celebrate Veterans Remembrance Month, people all across the

country will be attending ceremonies, distributing flags, and dedicating their time to honoring this nation's veterans. Those displays are important.

But service to veterans is a year-long pursuit for the Elks and celebrating Veterans Remembrances Month is only one chapter in a much longer story. The story is Voluntary Service Representatives caring for State Veterans Home residents every month of the year. The story is thousands of Members sending a few extra dollars with their dues to ensure that veterans have homes. The story is Lodges using grants to fund veteran job training programs and host summer camps for children of fallen service members. The story is making sure that once veterans are done with their service, they are safe and supported.

For Elks, November is a month to remember our veterans, but it's also a reminder to keep them in our hearts and in our actions all year long.

Stand Downs provide food, essentials for veterans by Mary Morgan:

Started in 1988 by two Vietnam veterans in San Diego, Stand Downs are community outreach events that provide food, support, and essentials for veterans in need of service. Originally intended to only serve veterans experiencing homelessness, Stand Downs are open to any veterans seeking assistance and connection.

Stand Downs unite community groups and are frequently held during the winter. The events are great opportunities for Elks to get involved, whether by volunteering or helping with planning.

You can visit va.gov/homeless/events.asp for a list of upcoming Stand Down events. Reach out to Stand Down organizers in your area to offer your Lodge's volunteer service. There are many ways for Elks to help make a Stand Down go smoothly. (Continued Page 8)

ELKS NATIONAL VETERANS SERVICE COMMISSION continued:

Common items provided at Stand Down are hot meals, bags of food to take home, clothing and underwear, winter hats and gloves, and information about available resources. Some larger events also provide free haircuts, boots, musical entertainment, dental services, flu shots, and vision screenings.

Your Lodge could consider providing transportation for veterans who need help getting to the event; greeting veterans arriving at the Stand Down and helping navigate the event; serving veterans a meal; or passing out clothing and hygiene items to veterans.

You can even get your entire Lodge involved in the month leading up to the Stand Down by hosting a winter clothing drive or a food drive. Consider reaching out to other local institutions such as schools, churches, or community centers to help collect essential supplies for veterans.



Remember to always talk with the Stand Down organizers first to find out what they need and what will help veterans the most.

Finally, volunteering at a Stand Down can be fun! Veterans look forward to these events and enjoy the camaraderie. It's also a nice way for volunteers to interact with local veterans and let them know they have the Elks' support.

Emergency Assistance Fund keeps veterans housed by Nadezh Mulholland:

The ENVSC's Welcome Home Program has been helping veterans prevent and exit homelessness since 2016. When you think of the Welcome Home Program, what comes to mind?

You might picture a veteran finally moving into a permanent home of their own after living in a

shelter or on the street. "That's an essential part of our work, but it's not the whole story. The other side of the Welcome Home Program is just as important: helping veterans remain safely housed in times of crisis.

The primary way we prevent homelessness is through our Emergency Assistance Fund, which helps veterans with housing expenses such as rent and utilities.

As the program name suggests, many veterans who turn to us for help are one emergency away from being served eviction papers. Every veteran has their own story, yet many veterans and their families are united by the looming threat of paycheck to paycheck. We provide targeted financial assistance in critical moments. Often, that assistance is the only thing standing between them and homelessness.

Homelessness prevention is monumental in the lives of veterans. In the past year, we helped a new mom with rent as she worked toward her goal of becoming financially independent after leaving a bad marriage. When a veteran's wife died, we paid utility bills to allow him to grieve while adjusting to the loss of her income. We assisted a veteran who was temporarily out of work following a car accident and had used up his savings to stay afloat.

The old saying "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure" is true in the case of veteran homelessness. Becoming homeless puts veterans at increased risk of homelessness again in the future. Having an eviction on record or owing debt to a former landlord can make it hard to find new housing, and many landlords don't want to take a chance on a tenant with poor credit.

By preventing veterans from becoming homeless, we are intervening in this cycle before it begins. The Emergency Assistance Fund helps people to overcome hurdles small and large to remain stably housed and save for the future. A veteran in California explained, "Without your assistance I had no other options and would be destitute. Now, I see a way out."

ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION:

Gratitude Grant, bonuses available for proactive Lodges by Abbey Knupp:

“Tis the season of gratitude, and the Elks National Foundation has so much to be grateful for! The generous donations Elks gave to the Foundation last fiscal year tops the list. By setting a new fundraising record, the giving hearts of the Elks allowed the ENF to allocate even more resources for Lodges to serve and strengthen their communities.

One of the ways the ENF expresses its gratitude is through the Gratitude Grant, which is available to any Lodge that met the Grand Exalted Ruler’s per-Member giving goal in the previous fiscal year. But the ENF is always looking for way to give back even more.

In addition to the \$2,000 standard Gratitude Grant, Lodges can earn three \$500 bonuses by achieving the following goals:

1. Have more that 15% of Lodge Members donate at least \$10 to the ENF. You can see your Lodge’s progress at enf.elks.org/member support.
2. Have Fidelity Club membership equal 5% or more of overall Lodge donors last year. View your Lodge’s progress at enf.elks.org/FC goal.
3. Reach 550 points in the Chair Challenge. See your Lodge’s progress at enf.elks.org/C standing.

Last year, the CIP team approved more than 1,200 Gratitude Grants. This year, they are on track to surpass that number in both initial grants approved and number of bonuses approved, and number of bonuses earned. The Elks National Foundation can’t thank its donors enough, but the Gratitude Grants sure helps!

The Elks National Foundation allocated nearly \$16 million this year to fund the Community Investments Program. Lodges meet local needs through grants that offer Elk’s opportunities to serve their community in ways that will raise the

Lodge’s profile and energize the membership. To learn m ore about the Community Investment Program, please visit elks.org/CIP.

As of December 19, 2022

Rank	Lodge	Donation	Per Capita
1	Slidell	\$ 1,407.25	\$ 6.66
2	N.O. West Bank	\$ 585.00	\$ 6.35
3	Plaquemine	\$ 280.00	\$ 6.08
4	Houma	\$ 609.00	\$ 5.80 .
5	New Orleans	\$ 1,295.00	\$ 3.36
6	Opelousas	\$ 261.00	\$ 1.13
7	Shreveport	\$ 250.00	\$ 0.26
8	Donaldsonville	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00

**GRAND EXALTED RULER
BRUCE HIDLEY**

**ANNOUNCED THAT HIS GOAL THIS
YEAR FOR THE
ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION**

WILL BE \$4.80 PER MEMBER

**STATE
ASSOCIATION**

News

NEW MAILING ADDRESS:

Effective January 1, the new mailing address for the Louisiana Elks Association will be **105 General Taylor Drive, Hahnville, LA 70057.**

(Continued Page 10)

STATE ASSOCIATION NEWS

continued:

MID-SEASON CONFERENCE:

The Mid-Season Conference will be held at the Opelousas Lodge on Saturday January 21, 2023.

Listed below is the agenda for the conference.

LEF Trustees 10:00 to 10:20 AM
LEA Trustees 10:20 to 10:40 AM
LEA Advisors 10:40 to 11:00 AM

District Advisory 11:00 to 11:15 AM

Lunch 11:15 AM to 12:00 Noon

Business meeting begins at 12:15 PM

Please make plans to attend the conference.

87th LEA STATE CONVENTION:

The LEA Convention will be held at the Double Tree Hotel in Lafayette, Louisiana June 15-18, 2023. An informational letter and registration form can be found on pages 14 and 15 of this newsletter.

COMMITTEE NEWS:

DRUG AWARENESS

I like to think of the Drug Awareness Program much like O negative blood – we are the universal donor of Elk programs. It is always quite easy to incorporate some phase of the program into other programs by including literature and coloring books.

MOST IMPORTANTLY – you need to record your activity in the Charity Book at your Lodge or on whatever form your Lodge Secretary requires in order to enter items in CLMS. It is OK to enter time for multiple committees – IE if you have a hoop shoot and use Drug Awareness theme balls, the time and contacted children can

count for both programs. Feel free to send me updates on successful programs so we can share those throughout the State.

One of the focus areas of the Drug Awareness program this year is Elks Image. When the Elks were originally formed, we were primarily a men's club that in many ways was a getaway spot for the men, and only on rare occasions were the Wives and children welcome in the club.

That is not the Elks of today as an increasing percentage of our active members are women, and more and more of our activities are designed to support the youth of our communities. We as Elks should all be ambassadors spreading the word of what the Elks of today are all about.

In today's busy world, time is at a premium and your commitment to our Order means a lot. Now if you are like me, you will hear comments about the Elks as an Old man's drinking club, or something similar. Most people are shocked to hear the good things that Elks do.

Do you know what an Elevator pitch is – it is the story you would tell about yourself if you had 3 floors in an elevator to convince someone to hire you, buy your product etc.

When someone asks me about the Elks, I have my elevator pitch ready – especially if they just said something about it being an “Old man's drinking club”.

I usually lead with something like:

Well, the Elks Lodge does have a bar and dining room, and it is a friendly place (kind of like the Cheers sitcom) everybody knows your name, and I have met many lifelong friends through the Elks. If I go to a Lodge anywhere in the country, we are welcomed just like it is our home Lodge.

But even better than the social club, if you think that our veterans, our youth, honoring the flag and showing that you are patriotic are important, then the Elks programs are something you would really enjoy. The Elks are: (Continued Page 11)

DRUG AWARENESS continued:

* The largest non-governmental provider of Scholarships in the US. Only the US Government provides more scholarship dollars to our youth.

*The Elks donated the first Veterans hospital ever established during WWI and have made a pledge that as long as there are veterans in need, the Elks will not forget them.

*The Elks honor our Law enforcement officers, firemen and other community groups.

*Elks established Flag Day and worked with the government to make this a recognized holiday.

*The Elks Drug Awareness Effort is the largest of its kind in the country.

So, while it is true that we have a good time at our social club, it is the shared vision that truly makes the Elks unique and an organization you and anyone should be proud to be a part of.

Now, the next time you hear someone talking about the Elks as an old man's drinking club, pull out your "Elevator pitch" and help improve the image of Elkdom. You just may be surprised when the person stops before they get off the elevator and asks how they can be part of the Elks.

To learn more about the variety of programs that are supported by the Drug Awareness Program, visit either the LAELKS.ORG or ELKS.ORG/DAP both have good information and are great resources.

Remember the DAP is not an annual event, but rather a continual opportunity to improve your community and your Lodge. If you can make a difference in the life of even one child in your community, we have succeeded.

Armand Buuck, Chairman

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS:

Now that the hustle and bustle of the holiday season is over, it's time to get back to business. It's time for each Lodge to make sure that CLMS is up to date with all your charitable hours. This year the Government Relations Committee established two new awards. The first award will be given to the states where 100% of the local Lodges participate and complete their charitable reporting in CLMS. A 100% participation certificate suitable for framing will be presented to the state.

The second award is for recognizing the states that achieved a 10% or greater increase in their total charitable dollars reported over the prior year. As with the first award, a certificate suitable for framing will be presented to the state.

It's the Government Relations Committee's hope that these awards will encourage all Lodges to actively participate in their charitable reporting and make sure that all Lodge events are accurately reflected in the charitable reporting system.

Charitable reporting is one of the keys to the very survival of our great Order. The Government Relations charity statistics once compiled, represents the only tangible documented proof of the total dollar value of all charitable work of Elks nationwide. This gives us leverage with our elected officials. The sad part is, only half the work we perform gets reported.



All meetings should be reported-Grand Lodge, State Conferences, Lodge Meetings, District Deputy meetings, Committee meetings!
(Continued Page 12)

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS continued:

That would include time and mileage to and from the meeting. Please give this information to all your members so that they can become familiar with the importance of reporting their charitable activities and let them know how much your lodge does for charity.

Go to elks.org to find some of the activities your Lodge should be reporting. You will be surprised at the list and what can be reported.

Don L. Baye, Chairman

LODGE ACTIVITIES:

Greetings Louisiana Elks. I am sure that by the time everyone has read this newsletter that you all have had a very happy, safe, prosperous holiday season, and a Happy New Year.

It has great to see all the Elk's activities happening throughout our State. Bingo, Halloween Trunk or Treating, New Year's Dance's, Veterans Dinners, VA Stand Downs, Christmas Baskets for those in need, Murder Mystery Dinners, adopt a school program, Drug Bring Back Programs, American's Essay Contests, movie nights and so much more. By now all lodges should have or should be getting ready to have their Hoop Shoot program, and I'm sure that everyone is starting to get ready for Mardi Gras. There is so many activities that your lodge can have to promote Elkdom. As mentioned previously, be sure to visit the Elks website, it features all kinds of virtual manuals, guides, and their social media sharables and is loaded with all kinds of helpful information. Visit Elks.org. I would also like to remind our members about involving newer members to help with these committee activities. By doing so it will help lead to a larger and stronger lodge membership. New members can bring new life and ideas to events. Sometimes hopefully these ideas will lead to amazing results. Don't forget about all the Elks Grants that are available, that your lodge can apply for to help support programs that you have in your community

If your lodge would like to know how much it has given back to its community, you can always contact the Elks National PR/ Membership Director at the Grand Lodge. Provide them with the date/ year that your lodge was chartered (Michael Gleason, bpoelkspublicrelations@gmail.com). They will send back to you your Lodge the Charitable Giving History Amount since inception and how much of an impact your lodge has made to your community. From there you can have a banner printed up letting the community know how much has been donated by your lodge since inception and the financial Impact it has made in the community. Having a banner will improve the image and awareness in the community, help boost lodge membership, and will make your members very proud of all the hard work that has been done.

The end of the Elks Year is not far off. This being said, remember to document all of your activities: time & milage in CLMS. And start gathering your yearend activities reports so that I can have them by March 31, 2023. This is how our State gets recognition for the wonderful work we do.

Have fun, and as always, be safe.

Betsy Ibos, Chairman

VETERANS:

L.E.A. VETERANS SERVICE Elks have vowed to never forget veterans. They hold up that promise every day as they work with the ENF funded Elks National Veterans Service Commission and use ENF Community Investments Program grants to aid veterans in their communities.

Elks Emergency Assistance Fund donated \$700K in 2021-2022. The ENVSC'S Emergency Assistance Fund helps to bridge that gap for veterans. In 2021-22, the fund assisted 421 veterans with housing-related emergency assistance requests, altogether totaling \$704,592. (Continued Page 13).

VETERANS continued:

The fund helps veterans pay rent, utilities, security deposits and other housing-related expenses, such as moving services, temporary housing, storage facilities and employment-related costs.

Since 2015, the ENVSC has distributed more than 7,800 welcome home kits to help veterans transition into permanent housing. Across 40 states, volunteers from 237 Elks Lodges have distributed more than \$1.8 million in welcome kits.

A little help goes a long way and Elks will always be there to give veterans a helping hand.

There is now a new number for veterans to use when contacting the (Veterans Crisis Line) one-way Elks can help prevent suicide is to be aware of and spread the information about the new number for Veterans Crisis Line. Now veterans and military members can call 988 and press 1 to reach someone trained in crisis intervention and military culture. PLEASE get this information out to all the veterans in your area.

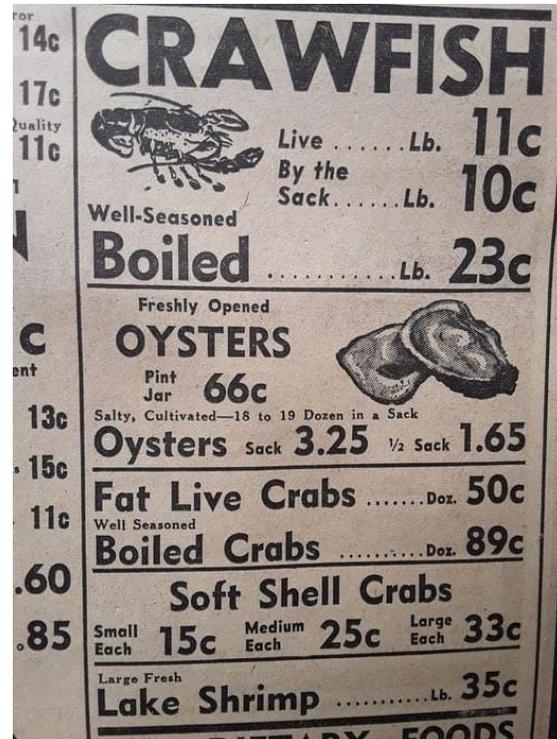
Don L. Baye, Chairman

LODGE NEWS:

Inquisitive minds want to know what is taking place at your Lodges. Please send information about upcoming events



THE GOOD OLD DAYS:



To Our Absent Members:

In vain we call. He has passed into the light which is beyond the valley of the shadow of death. The places that have known him shall know him no more; but his virtues are written upon the tables of love and memory.

- Eddie Braswell, Shreveport 122*
- Randall E Ross, Shreveport 122*
- Doyle Wise., Shreveport 122*
- Harold Crosby, Slidell 2321*
- Donald Sauviac, Jr Slidell 2321*
- Rodney Camardelle, NOWB 2496*



A Fraternal Organization

Louisiana Elks Association
Buddy Hartle, Convention Chairman
105 General Taylor Drive, Hahnville, LA 70057
Phone: (504)615-7921

January 1, 2023

Members,

On behalf of the Louisiana Elks Association, State President Rene Pelanne, Jr., and New Orleans Lodge #30, I invite you and your Lodge Members and guests to attend the 87th Louisiana Elks State Convention in Lafayette, LA on June 15-18, 2023.

The convention will be held at the Double Tree Hotel, located at 1521 West Pinhook Road, Lafayette, LA. The registration fee is \$60.00 per person through June 1st. A late registration fee of \$15.00 per person applies after June 1, 2023. All registration forms should be mailed to Andy Austin, Registration Chairman, 2006 Bermuda St, Shreveport, LA 71105-3802, no later than June 1, 2023.

The Double Tree has established a room block for the Louisiana Elks that will be available until **June 1, 2023**, with a discounted room rate. The rate for a double is \$139.00 and a king is \$159.00 per night plus 12.45% tax per night. **Reservations must be made by calling 1-800-222-8733. Tell the reservation clerk you are with the Louisiana Elks Association and the group code is ELK.** Please keep in mind that check-in time is 3 PM. If you arrive early your room may not be ready.

Opelousas Lodge #1048 will hold a Friday Night Social. The cost for this event is \$15.00 per person and the tickets must be ordered and paid for on the convention registration form. There will be plenty of good food, refreshments, and camaraderie. We hope to see you there.

Please advise your members of the upcoming convention, perhaps include a notice in your Lodge bulletin, and make and distribute copies of the enclosed registration form to those interested in attending.

Should you have any questions, feel free to contact me at (h) 985-308-0004 or (c) 504-615-7921 or via e-mail mrb.hartle3574@hotmail.com.

Have a Super Elk Day!!

Sincerely and fraternally,

Buddy Hartle, PDD
State Secretary, and 2023 Convention Chairman



A Fraternal Organization

Louisiana Elks Association
Buddy Hartle, Convention Chairman
105 General Taylor Drive, Hahnville, LA 70057
Phone: (504)615-7921

87th Annual State Convention – June 15-18, 2023
INDIVIDUAL REGISTRATION FORM

This form may be used either for pre-registration or for registration at the desk on convention dates.

Show member's name and lodge title, as each is to appear on the convention badge, spouse/guest's name and applicable registration amounts on the spaces provided.

Convention registrations are \$60/member, \$60 spouse/guest: Registration fees include the Saturday evening banquet meal; Brunch for non-Elks; entertainment for members, spouses and guests.

Friday Social tickets are \$15 each and must be ordered and paid for with this registration.

A LATE REGISTRATION FEE OF \$15 PER PERSON APPLIES AFTER JUNE 1st, 2023

Lodge name and number:

Member name and present title

Name of Spouse/Guest

Name of other guest

DESCRIPTION	NUMBER	AMOUNT
Number of convention tickets at \$60.00 each		
Number of Friday night social at \$15.00 each		
Late fee at \$15.00 each if applicable		
TOTAL		
PAID BY CASH:	PAID BY CHECK #	
PLEASE MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO LOUISIANA ELKS ASSOCIATION AND MAIL TO ANDY AUSTIN, 2006 BERMUDA ST—SHREVEPORT, LA 71105-3802		

SIGNATURE

DATE